From: Andersen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 2:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a part time administrator of computer systems for the past 20 years in a small Construction company (2001 sales of $80 million) I am appalled by the suit against Microsoft. I say part time because we do not a full time IT staff and computers are a small part of my involvement here. Nobody seems to remember what data processing was like in the pre-PC days but I can assure you that our business has benefitted greatly from companies like Microsoft and the open architecture of the PC. We could not maintain our systems no a part time basis without Microsoft.

We spent many dollars during the days of mainframes and minis for systems that didn't work well, required a lot of maintenance and left us vulnerable to gouging on both the hardware and software sides of computing. Microsoft has delivered a more stable platform for a fraction of what our previous systems cost. It wasn't that many years ago that the cost of word processing software was offered to my company for $50,000. (single user, 1982), adding a dumb terminal (workstation) cost $20,000 and adding 28megs to my hard drive cost $25,000 (this was a terrible scam because the space actually existed on the drive that I owned but it had to be software enabled).

In the early days of PCs, we spent countless thousands on software that didn't work well from Microsoft's competitors and eventually migrated to Microsoft's Office products because they were feature rich and did work better than their competition's.

We do not exclusively use Microsoft products - our network product is provided by Novell as is our email. Our accounting software is from Timberline and the interface issues between these products and MS has been minimal.

Do not hold to the belief that you are championing my cause by pursuing an action against Microsoft but rather please understand that you are probably going to negatively impact my business by your ignorance of reality. If the DOJ wants to go after somebody, they should look at companies like Apple who, to their own peril, has kept their architecture closed or for the countless failed software companies that never delivered on their promises.

This is not to say that we never have issues with Microsoft software but rather to say that they are manageable without Government intervention. A good analogy would be the United States Government. It is not without issues but considering the competition, where else would you go.

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